

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1195

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served January 26, 1972

Application of W. V. & M.)
Coach Company, Inc., for)
Authority to Change Routes)
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 12D.)

Application No. 709

Docket No. 233

On August 12, 1971, Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company, Inc. (W. V. & M.), filed Application No. 709 for authority to change the routing of its rush hour service along Constitution Avenue, N. W. on Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9. The requested change basically involves the use of C Street by W. V. & M. buses between 19th and 22nd Streets rather than Constitution Avenue.^{1/}

On October 29, 1971, a public hearing was held on the application. Appearances were entered by the applicant, the Commission staff and Mr. Donald J. Shaw, for himself, as intervenor. Mr. Donald Frenzen also testified at the hearing as a public witness opposing the requested change.

W. V. & M. contends that the proposed rerouting would be an improvement in service for the people now riding Constitution Avenue buses since it would bring passengers closer to the office buildings north of Constitution Avenue between 19th and 23rd Streets. In support of its testimony, the company introduced exhibits showing the number of passengers alighting inbound and boarding outbound within the area of the proposed change, and the average number of passengers daily at various points along the Constitution Avenue corridor.

^{1/} The application was amended to include Route 8, a midday service, and Route 12D, a rush hour only service. The change in routing requested for these two routes is the same as the others except they would reach C Street via 23rd Street rather than 22nd Street.

The Commission staff, through the testimony of its Chief Engineer, opposed the granting of the application on the grounds that it would result in a longer bus ride for the majority of the passengers now using the Constitution Avenue service.

On the basis of the record before us, we do not believe that such a change in routing is justified. First, the record reveals that the route proposed by W. V. & M. contains fewer traffic lanes and more stop lights and stop signs than does the present route. It also includes office building construction and a significant number of turns, neither of which are found along the present route. It is obvious that a bus trip over the proposed route will require more time to complete than one over the present route.

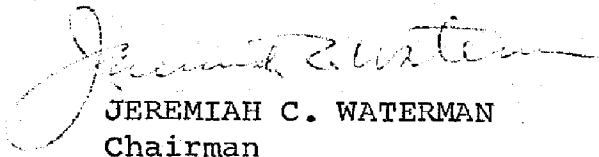
Second, W. V. & M.'s own exhibits indicate that the vast majority of the passengers presently being served travel to and from an area beyond the proposed route diversion. Traffic checks taken by W. V. & M. disclose that during the A. M. rush hour, 75 percent of the passengers continue eastward beyond the area of proposed rerouting to the Federal Triangle and the Southwest Mall. During the evening rush period, 69 percent of the Constitution Avenue riders originate east of 19th and Constitution.

Finally, W. V. & M. admits that it has no basis for concluding that additional new ridership would result from the proposed change, although this was a reason advanced in the application for requesting the change. Ridership, it concedes, might in fact decline by driving away passengers who now ride to and from the area east of 19th Street and Constitution Avenue. Moreover, the company admits that it received no petitions or letters requesting the change.

Since the proposed change would involve a longer ride for the majority of passengers without substantial reason to believe a significant increase in ridership will be achieved, we are not persuaded that it would be beneficial to the bus riding public, and we shall therefore deny the application.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Application No. 709 of the W. V. & M. Coach Company for authority to change the routing along Constitution Avenue, N. W. on Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 12D be, and it is hereby, denied.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


JEREMIAH C. WATERMAN
Chairman